

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 4 The list of currently pending claims is presented below.

5 **Claims 1.-128.** (Cancelled)

6 **Claim 129.** (Withdrawn) A device comprising:

2 a first substrate having a surface;
7 a second substrate having a surface, said first substrate and said second substrate being
8 aligned such that said surface of said first substrate opposes said surface of said
second substrate;
9 a first organic layer attached to said surface of said first substrate, wherein said first
organic layer comprises a first recognition moiety; and
1 a mesogenic layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, said mesogenic
2 layer comprising a plurality of mesogenic compounds.

Claim 130. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 129, further comprising a second
1 organic layer attached to said second substrate.

2 **Claim 131.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 130, wherein said second organic
layer comprises a second recognition moiety.

1 **Claim 132.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 130, wherein said first recognition
2 moiety and said second recognition moiety are the same.

1' **Claim 133.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 131, wherein said first recognition
2 moiety and said second recognition moiety are different.

2 **Claim 134.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 129, wherein said organic layer
comprises a member selected from the group consisting of organosulfur, organosilanes,
1 amphiphilic molecules, cyclodextrins, polyols, fullerenes and biomolecules.

2 **Claim 135.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 130, wherein said first organic layer
and said second organic layer are different.

3 **Claim 136.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 130, wherein said first organic layer
4 and said second organic layer are the same.

5 **Claim 137.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 129, wherein said organic layer
comprises a member selected from the group consisting of:



7 wherein,

8 R is an alkyl group;

9 R¹ is a linking group between silicon and X¹;

1 X¹ is a member selected from the group consisting of reactive groups and
protected reactive groups; and

1 n is a number between 1 and 50.

2 **Claim 138.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 137, wherein R is a member selected
1 from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl groups.

2 **Claim 139.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 137, wherein R¹ is a member
1 selected from the group consisting of stable linking groups and cleaveable linking groups.

2 **Claim 140.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 139, wherein R¹ is a member
3 selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, substituted
4 aryl, substituted arylalkyl, saturated cyclic hydrocarbon, unsaturated cyclic hydrocarbon,
5 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted heteroarylalkyl,
heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and heterocyclalkyl groups.

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- 2 **Claim 141.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 139, wherein R¹ comprises a moiety
3 which is a member selected from group consisting of disulfide, ester, imide, carbonate,
4 nitrobenzyl phenacyl and benzoin groups.
- 5 **Claim 142.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 139, wherein R¹ is a member
6 selected from the group consisting of alkyl and substituted alkyl groups.
- 7 **Claim 143.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 137, wherein X¹ is a member
8 selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid derivatives,
9 hydroxyl, haloalkyl, dienophile, carbonyl, sulfonyl halide, thiol, amine, sulphydryl,
10 alkene and epoxide groups.
- 11 **Claim 144.** (Previously presented) A method for detecting an analyte, comprising:
12 contacting with said analyte a recognition moiety for said analyte, wherein said
13 contacting causes at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to said
14 recognition moiety to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second
15 orientation upon contacting said analyte with said recognition moiety; and
16 detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens,
17 whereby said analyte is detected.
- 18 **Claim 145.** (Currently amended) The method according to claim 144, wherein the phase of
19 said analyte is a member selected from the group consisting of vapors, gases and liquids.
- 20 **Claim 146.** (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 145, wherein said vapor is a
21 member selected from the group consisting of vapors of a single compound and vapors of
22 a mixture of compounds.
- 23 **Claim 147.** (Withdrawn) The method of claim 145, wherein said gas is a member selected
24 from the group consisting of a single gaseous compound and mixtures of gaseous
25 compounds.

1 **Claim 148.** (Previously presented) The method of claim 145, wherein said liquid is a member
2 selected from the group consisting of a single liquid compound, mixtures of liquid
2 compounds, solutions of solid compounds and solutions of gaseous compounds.

3 **Claim 149.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 144, wherein said
recognition moiety comprises a member selected from the group consisting of metal ions,
1 metal-binding ligands, metal-ligand complexes, nucleic acids, peptides, cyclodextrins,
2 acids, bases, antibodies, enzymes and combinations thereof.

1 **Claim 150.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 144, wherein from about
10 to about 10^8 mesogens undergo said switching for each molecule of analyte interacting
2 with said analyte.

3 **Claim 151.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 144, wherein from about
 10^3 to about 10^6 mesogens undergo said switching.

4 **Claim 152.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 144, wherein said first
5 orientation is a member selected from the group consisting of uniform, twisted, isotropic
and nematic and said second orientation is a member selected from the group consisting
of uniform, twisted, isotropic and nematic, with the proviso that said first orientation and
2 said second orientation are different orientations.

3 **Claim 153.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 152, wherein said
detecting is achieved by a method selected from the group consisting of visual
4 observation, microscopy, spectroscopic technique, electronic techniques and
combinations thereof.

1 **Claim 154.** (Previously presented) The method according to claim 152, wherein said visual
2 observation detects a change in reflectance, transmission, absorbance, dispersion,
3 diffraction, polarization and combinations thereof, of light impinging on said plurality of
4 mesogens.

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2 **Claim 155.** (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 153, wherein said microscopy is a
1 member selected from the group consisting of light microscopy, polarized light
3 microscopy, atomic force microscopy, scanning tunneling microscopy and combinations
4 thereof.

2 **Claim 156.** (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 153, wherein said spectroscopic
1 technique is a member selected from the group consisting of infrared spectroscopy,
4 Raman spectroscopy, x-ray spectroscopy, visible light spectroscopy, ultraviolet
3 spectroscopy and combinations thereof.

2 **Claim 157.** (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 153, wherein said electronic
1 technique is a member selected from the group consisting of surface plasmon resonance,
2 ellipsometry, impedometric methods and combinations thereof.

3 **Claim 158.** (Currently amended) A device comprising:
4 a first substrate having a first surface;
5 a second substrate having a second surface, said first substrate and said second substrate
6 being aligned such that said first surface opposes of said first substrate opposes
7 said second surface of said second substrate;
8 a first organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said first organic layer
9 comprises a first recognition moiety which is bound to said first organic layer,
10 interacts with said analyte, and is selected from a peptide, protein, enzyme, and
11 receptor; and
1 a mesogenic layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, said mesogenic
1 layer comprising a plurality of mesogenic compounds.

2 **Claim 159.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 158, further comprising an interior
3 portion defined as the area between said first surface and said second surface, wherein
4 said interior portion allows communication between said analyte and said recognition
moiety.

2 **Claim 160.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 158, wherein said organic layer is a
rubbed polymer.

3 **Claim 161.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 158, wherein said recognition moiety
2 further comprises a biomolecule comprising a member selected from a polysaccharide
and a combination of a polysaccharide and a protein.

2 **Claim 162.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 158, wherein said first organic layer
3 comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said first
surface; and wherein said first recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled
3 monolayer.

4 **Claim 163.** (Withdrawn) A device for detecting an interaction between an analyte and a first
3 or second recognition moiety, said device comprising:
6 a first substrate having a first surface;
a first organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said first organic layer
7 comprises a first recognition moiety which is bound to said first organic layer,
interacts with said analyte, and is selected from a peptide, protein, enzyme, and
1 receptor; and
9 a second substrate having a second surface, said first substrate and said second substrate
1 being aligned such that said first surface opposes said second surface;
12 a second organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said second organic layer
comprises a second recognition moiety, bound to said first organic layer, which
1 interacts with said analyte, wherein said second recognition moiety is selected
3 from an amine, a carboxylic acid, a biomolecule, a drug moiety, a chelating agent,
4 a crown ether, and a cyclodextrin; and
15 a mesogenic layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, said mesogenic
16 layer comprising a plurality of mesogens, wherein at least a portion of said
plurality of mesogens undergo a detectable switch in orientation upon interaction
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1 between said first recognition moiety and said analyte, whereby said analyte is
2 detected.

1 **Claim 164.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 163, wherein said analyte is a
2 member selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, avidin, organic ions,
3 inorganic ions, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, pesticides, agents of war, noxious gases,
4 biomolecules and combinations thereof.

1 **Claim 165.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 163, wherein said interaction is a
2 member selected from the group consisting of covalent bonding, ionic bonding, hydrogen
3 bonding, van der Waals interactions, repulsive electronic interactions, attractive
4 electronic interactions, hydrophobic interactions, hydrophilic interactions and
5 combinations thereof.

1 **Claim 166.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 163, wherein said first organic layer
2 comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said first
3 surface; and wherein said first recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled
4 monolayer.

2 **Claim 167.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 163, wherein said second organic
1 layer comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said
2 second substrate; and wherein said second recognition moiety is bound to said self-
3 assembled monolayer.

3 **Claim 168.** (Withdrawn) A device for detecting an interaction between an analyte and a first
4 or second recognition moiety, said device comprising:
5 a first substrate having a first surface;
6 a first organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said first organic layer
7 comprises a first recognition moiety which is bound to said first organic layer,
 interacts with said analyte, and is selected from a peptide, protein, enzyme, and
 receptor; and

9 a second substrate having a second surface, said first substrate and said second substrate
10 being aligned such that said first surface opposes said second surface;
1 a second organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said second organic layer
1 comprises a second recognition moiety, bound to said first organic layer, which
1 interacts with said analyte, wherein said second recognition moiety is selected
1 from a peptide, protein, enzyme, and receptor; and
1 a mesogenic layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, said mesogenic
1 layer comprising a plurality of mesogens, wherein at least a portion of said
1 plurality of mesogens undergo a detectable switch in orientation upon interaction
1 between said first recognition moiety and said analyte, whereby said analyte is
1 detected.

2 **Claim 169.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 168, wherein said analyte is a
2 member selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, avidin, organic ions,
1 inorganic ions, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, pesticides, agents of war, noxious gases,
1 biomolecules and combinations thereof.

3 **Claim 170.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 168, wherein said interaction is a
4 member selected from the group consisting of covalent bonding, ionic bonding, hydrogen
5 bonding, van der Waals interactions, repulsive electronic interactions, attractive
1 electronic interactions, hydrophobic interactions, hydrophilic interactions and
1 combinations thereof.

1 **Claim 171.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 168, wherein said first organic layer
2 comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said first
3 surface; and wherein said first recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled
4 monolayer.

1 **Claim 172.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 168, wherein said second organic
2 layer comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said

3 second substrate; and wherein said second recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled monolayer.

5 **Claim 173.** (Withdrawn) A device for detecting an interaction between an analyte and a first or second recognition moiety, said device comprising:
6 a first substrate having a first surface;
7 a first organic layer attached to said first surface wherein said first organic layer
8 comprises a first recognition moiety which is bound to said first organic layer and
9 interacts with said analyte; and
10 a second substrate having a second surface, said first substrate and said second substrate
11 being aligned such that said first surface opposes said second surface;
12 a second organic layer attached to said first surface, wherein said second organic layer
13 comprises a second recognition moiety which is bound to said second organic
14 layer and interacts with said analyte; and
15 a mesogenic layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, said mesogenic
16 layer comprising a plurality of mesogens, wherein at least a portion of said
17 plurality of mesogens undergo a detectable switch in orientation upon interaction
18 between said first recognition moiety and said analyte, whereby said analyte is
19 detected.

2 **Claim 174.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 173, wherein said analyte is a
3 member selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, avidin, organic ions,
4 inorganic ions, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, pesticides, agents of war, noxious gases,
5 biomolecules and combinations thereof.

2 **Claim 175.** (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 173, wherein said interaction is a
3 member selected from the group consisting of covalent bonding, ionic bonding, hydrogen
4 bonding, van der Waals interactions, repulsive electronic interactions, attractive
5 electronic interactions, hydrophobic interactions, hydrophilic interactions and
combinations thereof.

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Claim 176. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 173, wherein said first organic layer comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said first surface; and wherein said first recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled monolayer.

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Claim 177. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 173, wherein said second organic layer comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said second substrate; and wherein said second recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled monolayer.

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Claim 178. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 173, wherein said first organic layer comprises a self-assembled organosulfur or organosilane monolayer bound to said first surface; and wherein said first recognition moiety is bound to said self-assembled monolayer.

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Claim 179. (Withdrawn) A device comprising:

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a first substrate having a surface, wherein said surface comprises a recognition moiety, and said recognition moiety and said first substrate are joined through a member selected from direct attachment and indirect attachment through a spacer arm; a mesogenic layer oriented on said surface; and an interface between said mesogenic layer and a member selected from the group consisting of gases, liquids, solids and combinations thereof.

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Claim 180. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 179, wherein said recognition moiety and said first substrate are joined through direct attachment, and said direct attachment is through a member selected from covalent bonding, ionic bonding, chemisorption, physisorption and combinations thereof.

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4 said spacer arm comprises a member selected from the group consisting of
1 poly(ethyleneglycol), poly(propyleneglycol), diamines, and surface-active agents.
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2 **Claim 182.** (Withdrawn) A device comprising:

5 a first substrate having a surface, wherein said surface comprises a recognition moiety,
4 and said recognition moiety and said first substrate are joined through a member
6 selected from direct attachment and indirect attachment through a spacer arm;
a second substrate having a second surface, said first substrate and said second substrate
8 being aligned such that said first surface opposes said second surface;
1 a mesogenic layer oriented on said surface; and
9 an interface between said mesogenic layer and a member selected from the group
 consisting of gases, liquids, solids and combinations thereof.

2 **Claim 183.** (Withdrawn) The device of claim 182, wherein said recognition moiety and said
3 first substrate are joined through direct attachment, and said direct attachment is through
4 a member selected from covalent bonding, ionic bonding, chemisorption, physisorption
and combinations thereof.

3 **Claim 184.** (Withdrawn) The device of claim 182, wherein said recognition moiety and said
2 first substrate are joined through indirect attachment through a spacer arm, and wherein
4 said spacer arm comprises a member selected from the group consisting of
poly(ethyleneglycol), poly(propyleneglycol), diamines, and surface-active agents.

2 **Claim 185.** (Withdrawn) A method for measuring the affinity of a recognition moiety for an
3 analyte of interest over a pre-bound analyte, said method comprising:

4 (a) contacting a first analyte with a recognition moiety for said first analyte, thus forming
 a pre-bound analyte
5 wherein said contacting causes at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to
6 said recognition moiety to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second
7 orientation upon contacting said first analyte with said recognition moiety;

- 1 (b) detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of
1 mesogens;
1 (c) contacting said analyte of interest with said recognition moiety, wherein said
2 contacting causes at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to said
1 recognition moiety to detectably switch from the second orientation to a third
14 orientation upon contacting said analyte of interest with said recognition moiety;
and
1 (d) detecting the third orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens,
1 whereby the affinity of the recognition moiety for the analyte of interest over the
1 pre-bound analyte is measured.

2 **Claim 186.** (Withdrawn) A device for amplifying an interaction between a first recognition
5 moiety and an analyte of interest, said device comprising:
a first substrate having a surface;
4 a first organic layer attached to said surface of said first substrate;
wherein said first recognition moiety is capable of interacting with an analyte of interest
7 to form a first recognition moiety-analyte of interest complex; and
8 a mesogenic layer comprising a liquid crystalline material, wherein said mesogenic layer
9 is in contact with said first recognition moiety, and the formation of said complex
10 induces a rearrangement in a conformation of said mesogenic layer, and wherein
 said mesogenic layer amplifies said interaction.

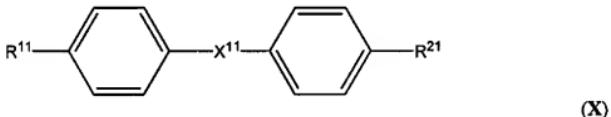
1 **Claim 187.** (Withdrawn) The device of claim 186, wherein the first recognition moiety is an
2 antibody.

1 **Claim 188.** (Withdrawn) The device of claim 186, wherein the analyte of interest is selected
2 from a biomolecule, chemical warfare agent, and noxious gas.

1 **Claim 189.** (Withdrawn) The device of claim 186, wherein said rearrangement of said
2 mesogenic layer produces an optical signal.

1 **Claim 190.** (Withdrawn) A copper(II)-detecting device comprising:

4 a first substrate having a surface;
5 a second substrate having a surface, said first substrate and said second substrate being
aligned such that said surface of said first substrate opposes said surface of said
6 second substrate;
8 a first organic layer attached to said surface of said first substrate, wherein said first
organic layer comprises a first recognition moiety; and
9 a mesogenic layer comprising a plurality of mesogenic compounds comprising a structure
according to Formula X:



10 wherein

11 X^{11} is a member selected from a bond, Schiff bases, diazo compounds, azoxy
15 compounds, nitrones, alkenes, alkynes, and esters;

16 R^{11} and R^{21} are members independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted
alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted
17 cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted or
18 unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, acyl, halogens,
hydroxy, cyano, amino, alkoxy, mercapto, thia, and aza;
19 wherein at least one of said R^{11} and R^{21} is cyano.

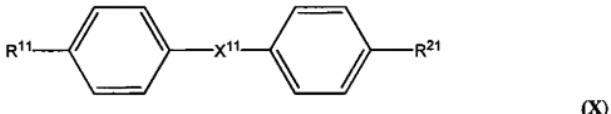
2 **Claim 191.** (Withdrawn) The copper(II)-detecting device of claim 190, wherein X^{11} is a
bond, R^{21} is pentyl, and R^{11} is cyano.

2 **Claim 192.** (Withdrawn) A sodium-detecting device comprising:
3 a first substrate having a surface;
4 a second substrate having a surface, said first substrate and said second substrate being
aligned such that said surface of said first substrate opposes said surface of said
5 second substrate;

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- 7 a first organic layer attached to said surface of said first substrate, wherein said first
8 organic layer comprises a first recognition moiety comprising a carboxylic acid
9 moiety; and
10 a mesogenic layer comprising a plurality of mesogenic compounds comprising a structure
according to Formula X:



4 wherein

1 X¹¹ is a member consisting of a bond, Schiff bases, diazo compounds, azoxy
5 compounds, nitrones, alkenes, alkynes, and esters;

1 R¹¹ and R²¹ are members independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted
7 alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted
18 cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted or
unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, acyl, halogens,
hydroxy, cyano, amino, alkoxy, mercapto, thia, and aza;
2 wherein at least one of said R¹¹ and R²¹ is a member selected from cyano,
hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylamine, amine, mercapto, and thia.

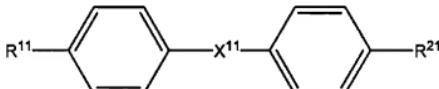
1 **Claim 193.** (Withdrawn) The sodium-detecting device of claim 192, wherein X¹¹ is a
2 member selected from a bond and an alkene.

1 **Claim 194.** (Withdrawn) The sodium-detecting device of claim 192, wherein R¹¹ is cyano
2 and R²¹ is methoxy.

1 **Claim 195.** (Withdrawn) The sodium-detecting device of claim 192, wherein R¹¹ is cyano
2 and R²¹ is pentyl.

1 **Claim 196.** (Withdrawn) A hexylamine-detecting device comprising:
2 a first substrate having a surface;

7 a second substrate having a surface, said first substrate and said second substrate being
8 aligned such that said surface of said first substrate opposes said surface of said
9 second substrate;
10 a first organic layer attached to said surface of said first substrate, wherein said first
11 organic layer comprises a first recognition moiety comprising a carboxylic acid
12 moiety; and
13 a mesogenic layer comprising a plurality of mesogenic compounds comprising a structure
14 according to Formula X:



(X)

1 wherein

3 X¹¹ is a member consisting of a bond, Schiff bases, diazo compounds, azoxy
4 compounds, nitrones, alkenes, alkynes, and esters;

5 R¹¹ and R²¹ are members independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted
6 alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted
7 cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted or
8 unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, acyl, halogens,
9 hydroxy, cyano, amino, alkoxy, mercapto, thia, andaza;
10 wherein at least one of said R¹¹ and R²¹ is a member selected from cyano,
11 hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylamine, amine, mercapto, and thia.

12 **Claim 197.** (Withdrawn) The hexylamine-detecting device of claim 196, wherein X¹¹ is a
13 member selected from a bond and an alkene.

14 **Claim 198.** (Withdrawn) The hexylamine-detecting device of claim 196, wherein R¹¹ is
15 cyano and R²¹ is methoxy.

16 **Claim 199.** (Withdrawn) The hexylamine-detecting device of claim 196, wherein R¹¹ is
17 cyano and R²¹ is pentyl.

Claim 200. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting an analyte, comprising:

- (a) interacting said analyte with a surface comprising a recognition moiety, thereby forming an analyte-recognition moiety complex, said surface comprising:
 - (i) a substrate;
 - (ii) an organic layer bound to said substrate; and
 - (iii) said recognition moiety bound to said organic layer;
- (b) contacting said analyte-recognition moiety complex with a mesogenic layer, thereby causing at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to said recognition moiety to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second orientation[.,.];
and
- (c) detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens, whereby said analyte is detected.

Claim 201. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting an analyte, comprising:

- (a) interacting said analyte with a surface comprising said recognition moiety, said surface comprising:
 - (i) a substrate;
 - (ii) an organic layer bound to said substrate; and
 - (iii) said recognition moiety bound to said organic layer;
- (b) contacting said analyte with an organic mesogenic layer, thereby causing at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to said recognition moiety to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second orientation upon contacting said analyte with said recognition moiety; and
- (c) detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens, whereby said analyte is detected.

Claim 202. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting an analyte, comprising:

interacting said analyte and a mesogenic layer, wherein said interacting causes at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second orientation; and

- 5 detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens,
6 whereby said analyte is detected.